

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The New Orleans True Delta, of the 9th, states that the steam transport Ceres exploded her boiler off St. Joseph's Island, by which twelve of her passengers and crew were lost, including Lieut. Sherburne, of the 13th Maine regiment. Twenty-one were saved, including some severely scalded. The gunboat Calhoun and a yacht, in which was Gen. Butler, saved the survivors. The Ceres was totally destroyed by the explosion and the fire which followed.

Late Galveston (Texas) papers state that the Federal gunboats had made several attacks on the town of Corpus Christi, but the Confederate batteries replying, the vessels hauled off. Most of the houses in the town, it is said, were perforated by the shot, but only one person was killed. Corpus Christi is the capital of Nueces county, on the bay of the same name, two hundred and thirty miles southwest of Galveston.

About thirty of the workmen employed at the machine shops of Portsmouth, Va., have suddenly disappeared from the town and entered the Confederate lines, taking their tools with them.

The Wilmington and Weldon railroad have withdrawn all their trains, save one, owing to the prevalence of the yellow fever at the former place and the lack of business.

The Richmond Dispatch says that "General Scott's letter, just made public by John Van Buren, shows the wisdom and judgment" of that general, and "displays his sagacity and appreciation" of the present difficulties.

A Union meeting was held at Beaufort, N. C., on the 21st inst. Resolutions were passed by those present endorsing the President's proclamation.

The Grenada Appeal says that Sabine City, Texas, was occupied by the Federal forces last month.

The Harrisburg, Pa., Patriot, in noticing the knocking down and robbing of a soldier, at night, in that place, by two negro men, says: "Scenes of this kind occur almost every night, and it is unsafe for citizens or strangers to venture after dark into localities frequented by the colored rowdies who infest our city, unless provided with protective weapons. No city of the same size in the North is cursed with a more numerous or worthless negro population than Harrisburg, and it is now daily being swelled by swarms of filthy extrabands, who must either subsist themselves by robbery and plunder, or become paupers upon the bounty of our white tax-paying citizens."

The U. S. ship Quaker City, under command of Commander James Madison Frailey, has been wrecked near Elisto, N. C. She was recently put in complete order at the Philadelphia navy yard. She formerly was in the merchant service, and ran to Havana.

The Cincinnati Commercial (Rep.) traces the result of the October elections to the course of the majority in Congress, last winter, which drew partisan lines and created uneasiness among large numbers of strong Union men as to the objects of the war.

The "immense snake" which caused such a sensation a few years ago, at Silver Lake, N. Y., it is now found out, was a long piece of leather hose, which the landlord of the hotel there placed in the water, "to create a sensation and draw custom."

THE BURNING OF A VESSEL ON THE POTOMAC.—Captain Jarvis Smith and the crew (six in number) of the schooner Francis Elmore, burned by the Confederates when at anchor off Lower Cedar Point, Potomac river, arrived at New York on Wednesday, having left Richmond under a flag of truce on Monday last.

Captain Smith reports that while at anchor, as above stated on the night of the 7th inst., his vessel was boarded by a party of thirteen men from the Virginia shore, calling themselves "Partisan Rangers," who made himself and crew prisoners, and then burned the vessel.—They came alongside unobserved, and in as fine a boat as could be found anywhere in New York. They were armed to the teeth with pistols, cutlasses, &c., and were commanded by a man whom they called Lieutenant Wood. This Wood professed to be a Lieutenant in the Confederate States navy, and said that he was attached to the Merrimac when she had the fight with the Monitor. The second in command was named Lee. He professed to be a near relative to the Confederate general of that name.

After they had gained the deck of the Francis Elmore and overpowered the crew, they secured them all in the boat, and, cutting open a bale of hay in the cabin, threw tar balls saturated in spirits of turpentine among it, and then applied the torch. They then left, taking the prisoners with them. Soon the schooner was in flames fore and aft, and her destruction was very quickly accomplished. Captain S. and his crew were taken to Richmond and confined in the Libby prison, where they remained until released on Monday.

During the last month, in Baltimore, upwards of three thousand persons were required to take the oath prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for persons selling goods to go to Maryland and Eastern Shore of Virginia, and for those who purchased them.

The reports as to a speedy attack on Mobile continue.

The Colonization vessel, M. Caroline Stevens, will sail from Baltimore, for Liberia, on the 12th of November.

Surgeon General Hammond is engaged in the preparation of a work on "Military Hygiene."

The late elections, says a Northern paper, have produced quite a change both in the manners and rhetoric of the Abolition journals. Prior to these elections, everybody who differed with them was denounced as a traitor, and significant hints thrown for their arrest and imprisonment. Now, however, some of these journals have changed their tone.

General Wadsworth is determined, as there are numbers of officers and soldiers who continue to patronize the various places of ill repute and saloons of doubtful character in Washington, that he will persevere in his efforts to rid the city of these pestilences.

It having recently been discovered that the practice of sending private letters to the State Department for the purpose of being forwarded to the care of Ministers and Consuls of the U. S. abroad "has been abused for disloyal purposes," notice is now given that no such letters will henceforward be transmitted. All letters to Ministers and Consuls which may be sent to be forwarded must be left open for inspection by the Department.

A dispatch from Cairo reports an attack on a steamer at Island No. 21, near Point Pleasant.

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NOTICE.—A MEETING of the stockholders of the FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Alexandria, will be held at the office of L. L. Kinzer, on Royal street, on Monday the 3rd day of November next, for the purpose of holding an election for twelve directors, to serve the ensuing year. Hours from 10 A. M. to 12 M.
T. M. McCORMICK, Secretary.
oct 17—td

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40 " Irish " "
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15 dozen chickens,
20 firkins Prime Butter,
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